



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



50X1

22 DECEMBER 1965

~~TOP SECRET~~

DAILY BRIEF
22 DECEMBER 1965

1. Rhodesia

The British are still trying to hold back President Kaunda from premature economic sanctions against Rhodesia that would threaten further to escalate the situation beyond British control.

Kaunda says he must react against the Rhodesian surcharge on coal exported to Zambia. The British have dissuaded him from imposing a total trade boycott on Rhodesia but he now says he will stop all Zambian copper shipments through Rhodesia.

Zambia is not ready, the British argue, to withstand the likely Rhodesian countermeasures. Prime Minister Wilson has written Kaunda expressing the hope that by late next month "or not long thereafter" further Zambian action could make a decisive contribution to bringing down the Smith regime. By that time, he said, the sanctions against Rhodesia will be having an effect and Zambia will be better prepared to hold out.

Whether or not the British are able to restrain Kaunda, other forces may well push them toward the ultimate military action in Rhodesia which Wilson hopes to avoid. Even some of the most objective and responsible African leaders are expressing the view that since Wilson claims that British force can be used only when law and order are threatened, then the Africans must create such conditions.

2. Dahomey

Today's bloodless coup in this small West African country has brought army chief Soglo to full power. He was impelled to this move by exasperation over the maneuvering of the civilian politicians. It remains to be seen whether Soglo can do better. The army is badly divided along tribal and regional lines.

3. Dominican Republic

The capital city was relatively quiet today after another night of sporadic gunfire. Most workers returned to their jobs after the unions suspended, if temporarily, their call for a general strike to demand the ouster of the military leaders.

This may change quickly. Tomorrow, the special committee investigating last Sunday's outbreak in Santiago is to report back to Garcia Godoy. He expects to take action against the guilty. Though he says he is not prejudging the case, he clearly anticipates that action will be called for against certain military officers as well as elements in the former rebel faction.

Garcia Godoy thus faces the prospect of new pressures from resentful military officers as well as from rebel sympathizers.

4. Guatemala

The coup plotters are poised for action. A leading member of the cabal tells us that the timing is one of the few details yet to be worked out and that the coup may take place on or before Christmas Eve.

The officers involved speak confidently of wide backing for their plans in the barracks and among conservative businessmen. They expect a relatively simple operation, involving the deportation of Chief of State Peralta and his replacement by another colonel who would pave the way for Colonel Ponciano's election as president next March.

The immediate danger is that they may have overestimated their backing and that the attempt may spark a violent reaction.

5. Soviet Union

The recent missile firings from a Soviet operational launch site, referred to in yesterday's Brief, do not appear to have been realistic combat readiness tests.

50X1

50X1

The firings, which seem to have involved fairly rigid advance planning, may have involved crew training.

6. Iran-Iraq

The border clashes noted in the 16 December Brief have taken another turn for the worse. An intercepted Iranian military message indicated that two Iraqi aircraft were strafing two Iranian villages and a gendarmerie outpost yesterday.

7. France

8. North Vietnam

The Uong Bi power plant was hit hard today.

A first reading of post-strike photography shows complete destruction of the coal-handling building and extensive damage to the coal conveyer and the boiler house.

Three US aircraft were lost in connection with the raid.

50X6

50X1

9. Indonesia

Panic is mounting in the centers of ethnic Chinese population in many parts of Indonesia as the depredations and killings continue.

Peking is being put increasingly on the spot by its inability to help.

50X1

The US Embassy in Djakarta has noted a recent heavy influx of Chinese into the capital in an effort to escape persecution. Many have come from North Sumatra.

Old racial antipathies are undoubtedly responsible for much of the persecution, but in some places known Communists in the Chinese community have borne the brunt of the attacks.

50X1

Page Denied

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Denied

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET